DPCO 1987 which inter-alia provides for fixation/revision after making such enquiry/obtaining data as Government may deem fit. Cost cum technical study is only a part of such enquiry. During the last 2 years, in 4 cases of bulk drugs viz., Ampicillin Trihydrate, Ampicillin Anhydrous, Amoxycillin Trihydrate and Doxycycline, the prices have been revised without recourse to cost-cum-technical study, as no such study was readily available.

*260. [Transferred to 11th May, 1993]

Mining of Uranium

1875. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether mining of uranium in the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya has been started;

(b) if so, what kind of infrastructure has been laid for the purpose; and

(c) whether there has been any protest against the project from the people and local representatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) No, Sir. Only experimental mining of uranium in Khasi Hills is in progress.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Hill Council has given approval for experimental mining. However, Rev. P B.M. Basaiawmoit, Convenor Khasi-Jaintia Environmental Protection Council and H.S Lyngdoh, Chairman, West Khasi Hills District Action Committee have raised objection to mining of uranium in Khasi Hills.

Production of super computer by Electronics Corporation of India Limited

1876. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem published in the Times of India dated 22nd April, 1993 captioned "ECIL to produce BARC super computer";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the super computers being developed by ECIL are five times faster than the indigenously available computers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The super computer developed at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is based on parallel processing techniques and the current version makes use of eight computers interconnected by a high speed communication system. The speed of this computer system as measured by a (1000 x 1000) Linpack benchmark program which is generally used for measuring the computing speed of the super computer systems, is 52 million floating point operations per second. The super computer is already being used extensively by scientists and engineers at BARC for the last one year. The system's performance is being increased by increasing the number of computers in the configuration.

Accidents at atomic plants

1877. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the accidents taking place at various atomic sites and plants during the last three years;

(b) whether there has been a slackness in running these plants;

(c) whether it is also a fact that waste disposal is also being handled casually at these atomic energy plants; and

(d) whether the experience of foreign countries in disaster management at these plants has been examined for use here?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) While there have been no accidents involving any unacceptable radiological consequences to the operating personnel, public or environment, there have been certain incidents common to industrial plants. These are regularly reviewed by a multi-tier system of review by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and corrective actions taken periodically.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. Waste disposal is handled with utmost care meeting the safety requirements stipulated by AERB.

(d) International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) guidelines on the off-site emergency preparedness have been considered. Periodic off-site emergency exercises are carried out at each operating nuclear power station site to confirm the efficacy of the off-site emergency plans. State and National emergency response committees review these plants. These plants are site specific and are relevant to the conditions in our country.

Establishment of heavy water project

1878. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any offer either from India or foreign companies to establish heavy water project for manufacturing heavy water and liquid hydrogen, used for Space research and nuclear power installations;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the names of such companies;

(c) whether Government have identified any areas to establish such a highly capital intensive project;

(d) if so, the names of such areas, state wise;

(e) whether Government funding to such companies would be necessary for these highly capital intensive projects; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and by when the work would be started/completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (d) Government has not received any offer either from Indian or foreign companies to set up a project for manufacturing heavy water. However, in response to a tender floated in 1990 for setting up a Liquid Hydrogen Plant, the Department of Space had received three offers from foreign companies. Based on technical and commercial evaluation, M/s. Linde Germany was selected. The plant is being set up at the Mahendragiri complex of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in South Tamil Nadu.

(e) The liquid hydrogen plant is being set up with the funds allocated to the Department of Space/ISRO.

(f) The erection of the plant is in progress. It is Scheduled to be commissioned by the end of 1993.

Dumping of Fertilizers by International Cartels

@1879. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the domestic fertilizer manufacturers are pushed to closing down their units because of the dumping of fertilizers by International Cartels and subsequent low price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to protect the domestic manufacturers?

@Previously Unstarred Question 1304 transferred from 7th May, 1993.